Lydia Kinney

Essential Beliefs

1/29/2008

Dr. Grace Ward

I think that I have had a large combination of factors that have lead me to selecting teaching as a profession. As long as I can remember I have always wanted to be a teacher. I have always loved school and I have always loved to learn. I was a tutor for four years of high school and I loved helping the younger children learn. In elementary and most of middle school I had excellent examples of what a teacher is supposed to be and what they are supposed to do. When I reached high school I was faced with the realization that, sadly, not every teacher puts forth their best effort. In fact there were many teachers that did not. I did have one really great English teacher my junior and senior years of high school. She provided a clear line as to what makes a teacher effective as opposed to the others who did not. I want to provide today’s youth with an outstanding education from a teacher who cares about their education; unlike the better portion of my high school career.

This was also the beginning of how I selected my content and level of study here at UMF. I excelled in English in high school and realized how much I love literature and would like to pass that passion on to others. I have had many years experience working with the younger elementary grades, and while I loved working with them as a tutor, I knew that I did not want to make a career of teaching them. Instead I wanted to work with one subject, English, and provide an in-depth study of it to my students.

I’m sure that the way I learn will effect how I approach teaching in my classroom. I like to have very clear, step by step, instructions. So in return I feel that it will be very clear as to what I want out of any assignments that I give. I also am a very visual learner, so I feel that I will probably invest a small amount of time in diagrams or visuals. An example of this would be a character web for any of Shakespeare’s plays. At the same time I think that I will be sensitive to students in my classroom who learn differently than I do. For example kinesthetic learners may benefit from acting out a portion of a play rather than just reading it. I am also a very linguistic learner. I hope that I will be able to use this to effectively teach the ELA.

My biggest fear about teaching is that I will be an ineffective teacher. I feel that I have all of these fantastic ideas on what and how to teach, but what if they fall flat? My expectations of being a teacher are that it will not be easy and that it will take a lot of effort. Luckily for me I enjoy a challenge. I also fear that I will not be good at classroom management and that my students will not respect me. I know that as a young teacher it can be hard to earn the respect from students who look similar and are close in age to you. I hope that this will not be a problem and that my students will not disrespect me because I am a new teacher.

I hope to pick up practical “real life” skills that can be used in the classroom from practicum. I also want to find new ideas and theories that have never occurred to me before. I expect to become a better teacher, with more “tools in my belt” from this class. I want to learn about class room management and also about ways that I can integrate new technologies into my class room. I also hope that I will find a balance between catering to every student’s personal learning styles and working with the class as a whole.